

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 DPW-01 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 EUR-25 RSR-01 /143 W

----- 021229

R 211050Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4943

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

UNCLAS SAIGON 13203

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: PRG PRESS CONFERNCE JULY 21

IN ITS REGULAR SATURDAY PRESS CONFERNCE, PRG DEL SPOKE TO A NUMBER OF MAJOR CURRENT ISSUES. RELIABLE OBSERVER WHO WAS PRESENT SAYS THAT FOLLOWING SOTRY FILED BY UPI CORRESPONDENT AND QUOTED IN ITS ENTIRETY IS ACCURATE AND COMPLETE: BEGIN QUOTE. SAIGON JULY 21. THE VIET CONG SAID TODAY IT WANTS THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CONTROL AND SUPERVISION TO CONTINUE AS A FOUR-NATION BODY AND IS TAKING PART IN THE SEARCH FOR A REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA. PARA. HOWEVER, SENIOR COLONEL VO DONG GIANG, DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE PRG DELEGATION TO THE TWO-PARTY JOINT MILITARY COMMISSION. INDICATED THAT IF NO REPLACEMENT FOR CANADA IS FOUND, THE ICCS CAN ONLY BE RESTRUCTURED BY JOINT ACTION OF THE UNITED STATES, NORTH AND SOUTH VIETNAM AND THE PRG. PARA. "THE PRG DESIRESTHAT THE ICCS WILL SOON HAVE THE FULL FOUR MEMBERS SO IT CAN EFFECTIVELY DISCHARGE ITS TAKS, AND THE PRG IS TRYING TO FIND A MEMBER TO REPLACE CANADA, "GIANG SAID AT THE WEEKLY VIET CONG NEWS CONFERENCE. HE DECLINED TO SAY WHICH NATIONS HAVE BEEN APPROACHED. "BUT IF THERE ARE REASONS THAT REQUIRE A CHANGE IN STRUCTURE IN THE ICCS (REDUCING IT TO TWO MEMBERS WITH POLAND RESIGNING AND HUNGARY AND INDONESIA REMAINING), IT SHOULD BE POSED AS A PROBLEM FOR THE FOUR PARTIES (TO THE JAN. UNCLASSIFIED

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27 PARIS AGREEMENT) AND AGREED UPON BY THEM, "HE SAID. PARA.

IN A WIDERANGING, TWO-HOURS SESSION, GIANG ALSO: PARA.
 ATTACKED CANADA'S AMBASSADOR MICHEL GAUVIN, WHO HAD DESCRIBED
 THE PRG AS "UNCIVILIZED AND PRIMITIVE" IN HIS DEPARTURE NEWS
 CONFERENCE THURSDAY. "HE (GAUVIN) USED WORDS NOT WORTHY
 OF BEING AN AMBASSADOR. SO FAR, MICHEL GAUVIN HAS SPARED
 NO WORDS TO SLANDER THE PRG...WE HAVE SENT MEMORANDA TO
 THE ICCS CRITICIZING HIS INCORRECT ATTITUDE. I BELIEVE THE CANADIAN
 PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE WHAT GAUVIN HAS DONE AND WILL HAVE
 THEIR COMMENTS ON THIS INCORRECT ATTITUDE," GIANG SAID. PARA.
 --WARNED THAT THE VIET CONG CONSIDERS THIS WEEK'S AWARD OF
 OFF-SHORE OIL CONCESSIONS BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM TO
 SHELL, MOBIL, EXXON AND CANADA'S SUNNINGDALE GROUP AS ILLEGAL).
 PARA. GIANG ACCUSED THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN VAN THIEU
 OF "SELLING OFF THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE PEOPLE. OIL IN
 SOUTH VIETNAM IS CONSIDERED BY OUR SIDE AS A NATURAL RESOURCE
 OF PEOPLE. " THE PRG RESERVES THE RIGHT ITSELF TO REVISE ALL
 THE TREATIES WITH FOREIGN COUNTRIES WHICH HAVE BEEN AND WILL BE
 SIGNED," GIANG SAID. PARA. HAD SAID THE PRG HAS NO SCHEDULE
 FOR AWARDED OIL CONCESSIONS IN SOUTH VIETNAM. "WE CONSIDER THE
 NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE AS THE
 RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LEGAL GOVERNMENT TO BE FORMED BY ACTION
 OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF RECONCILIATION AND ELECTIONS PROVIDED
 UNDER THE PARIS AGREEMENT," HE SAID. PARA.--INSISTED CIVILIAN
 PRISONERS HELD BY THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM (RVN) LIKE FORMER DEPUTY
 TRAN NGOC CHAU, WOMEN'S LIBERATIONIST NGO BA THANH, AND
 LAWYER TRUONG DINH DZU SHOULD BE FREED TO THEIR FAMILIES
 AND NOT BE FORCED TO GO TO THE COMMUNIST CONTROLLED TERRITORY.
 "OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD PERSONS BELONGING TO NEITHER SIDE
 SOVIET CONG OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT) IS THAT THE SAIGON
 ADMINISTRATION MUST RETURN THEM TO THEIR ORGANIZATIONS,
 AND FAMILIES AND NOT TO THE PRG. "BUT IF THEY WOULD LIKE TO
 GO TO OUR AREA OF CONTROL, WE RESPECT THEIR ASPIRATIONS. IF THEY
 WISH TO GO TO THE AREA OF THE SAIGON SIDE, WE ALSO RESPECT THEIR
 ASPIRATION. WE DEMAND THAT THE SAIGON SIDE SIMILARLY RESPECT
 THEIR ASPIRATIONS," GIANG SAID PARA. --SAW NO REASON FOR OPTIMISM
 THAT AN ACCORD WOULD BE ACHIEVED BETWEEN THE PRG AND
 THE RVN WITHIN THE 45 DAYS SET UNDER THE PHASE II CEASEFIRE
 COMMUNIQUE SIGNED IN PARIS JUNE 13. "THERE IS NO CONDITION
 TO MAKE US OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THIS TIME LIMIT. BUT WE ARE VERY
 OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FINAL PROSPECTS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND A
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POLITICAL SETTLEMENT FOR SOUTH VIETNAM," GIANG SAID. PARA.
 --REPEATED VIET CONG CLAIMS THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT
 NGUYEN VAN THIEU HODS 200,000 POLITICAL PRISONERS AND SAID
 THIEU AIDE HOANG DUC NHA TOLD THE WASHINGTON POST LAST
 DEC. 11 THAT "WITHIN THE LAST WEEKS 41,000 COMMUNIST HANDS
 HAVE BEEN ARRESTED." (THE GOVERNMENT SAID IN A PAMPHLET
 ON PRISONERS RELEASED FRIDAY THAT ITS TOTAL PRISON POPULATION
 IS FEWER THAN 40,000 AND ALL ARE CRIMINALS OR PERSONS AWAITING

TRIAL ON CRIMINAL CHARGES). END QUOTE. MARTIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973SAIGON13203
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SAIGON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730718/aaaaanbc.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Jan-2002 by elbezefj>; APPROVED <06-Feb-2002 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRG PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 21 IN ITS REGULAR SATURDAY PRESS CONFERENCE, PRG DEL SPOKE TO A
TAGS: PINT, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005